

Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted

Data Set Overview and History

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC) collects information on peace officers who were killed or assaulted in the line of duty in California. The Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted (LEOKA) data are reported as part of the Federal Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program by law enforcement agencies (LEA) throughout the state. LEOKA data is summary data, meaning it is a collection of information describing the totality of incidents, not a collection at the detailed, incident level.

LEOKA is a federally mandated collection. From the 1960's until 1990, the forms were passed along to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); the CJSC did not retain any of the LEOKA data. In 1990, the CJSC began to collect and retain some of the data from the LEOKA form for statistical purposes, but it was not until 2000 that full retention at the State level was defined and standardized.

Statutory Authority

The DOJ has statutory authority to collect LEOKA data pursuant to Penal Code (PC) section 13020. LEOKA is reported as part of the UCR reporting requirements, but CJSC references PC section 13020 as our statutory requirement (to report statistical data to the Department at those times and in the manner that the Attorney General prescribes).

Data Characteristics and Known Limitations

1. LEOKA data was collected from 1990 to 1999 by the CJSC ; however, it is stored in a different format that is not compatible with the current electronic format.
2. The CJSC first began publishing the LEOKA data in 2010 in the *Crimes in California* publication.
3. Statewide LEOKA data for 1990-1999 is included in table 48 in the *Crime in California* publication. However, the data is only available at the statewide level and cannot be displayed or produced by county or jurisdiction.
4. In 2010, LEOKA data (table 48) was first introduced to the *Crime in California* publication. Prior to this year, the only time LEOKA data was published by a California Department was by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) in multi-year reports that POST only distributed to LEAs.

Note on Data Sources for OpenJustice:

Initial OpenJustice analysis on Law Enforcement Officers Killed or Assaulted is based in part on data provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Law enforcement agencies across the state report LEOKA data to the CJSC as part of the FBI's UCR Program. While the CJSC provides this data to the FBI, the CJSC's own database on officers killed or assaulted from prior to the year 2000 remains in paper or legacy text format.

LEOKA Deaths

Data on officers killed was provided by the CJSC for the years 1990-2014, and the FBI for the years 1980-1989.

LEOKA Assaults

In order to document trends from prior years, and in order to maintain consistency throughout the analysis, figures for OpenJustice LEOKA Assaults are based on data provided by the FBI in electronic form for the years 1980-2012 and on data provided by CJSC for the years 2013 and 2014.

There are minor differences in the FBI and CJSC versions of these data that likely result from different internal processes and organization. We do not believe that any discrepancies are material.

Definition of LEOKA Terms

Definitions in this section were obtained from the FBI's LEOKA program documentation which is found in the Federal Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Uniform Crime Reporting Program's publication titled "Summary Reporting System User Manual", v 1.0, 06/20/201. This publication can be found at <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/ucr-program-data-collections>.

Assault (with injury) – assaults that typically result in broken bones, internal injuries, or wounds requiring stitches.

Assault (without injury) – assaults not causing injury if the assault involved more than mere verbal abuse or minor resistance to an arrest, including abrasions, minor lacerations, contusions or other injuries requiring no more than usual first aid treatment.

Accidental Death – when an officer dies as a result of an accident he or she is involved in while performing his or her duties. Some examples of accidental deaths include an officer being struck by a vehicle while directing traffic, drowning during a rescue attempt, or receiving fatal injuries in a motor vehicle, airplane, or helicopter accident while on patrol or involved in a pursuit. Although an accidental death may result in criminal charges, it would still be documented as "accidental" given an absence of a criminal intent to kill.

Felonious Death – when an officer is killed because of or while performing his or her official duties and as a direct result of a criminal act by a subject.

Line-of-duty Death – when the officer is on or off duty and acting in an official capacity while reacting to a situation which would ordinarily fall within the scope of his or her official duties as a law enforcement officer.

Law Enforcement Officer – must be working in an official capacity, have full arrest powers, wear/ carry a badge (ordinarily), carry a firearm (ordinarily), and be paid from governmental funds set aside specifically for payment of sworn law enforcement representatives.

Type of Activity – describes the type of call or activity the officer was engaged in when the assault occurred. Values include: Responding to disturbance calls (family quarrels, person with firearm, etc.); Burglaries in progress or pursuing burglary suspects; Robberies in progress or pursuing robbery suspects; Attempting other arrests; Civil disorder (riot, mass disobedience, etc.); Handling, transporting, custody of prisoners; Investigating suspicious persons or circumstances; Ambush-no warning; Mentally deranged; traffic pursuits and stops; and All other.

Type of Weapon – describes the type of weapon used in the assault. Values include: Firearm; Knife or other cutting instrument; Other dangerous weapon; and Hands, fist, feet, etc. (e.g., unarmed)

Time of Assault – describes the time of day the assault occurred, in two-hour increments. Values include:

AM: 12:01-2:00, 2:00-4:00, 4:00-6:00, 6:00-8:00, 8:00-10:00, 10:00-12:00; and
PM: 12:01-2:00, 2:00-4:00, 4:00-6:00, 6:00-8:00, 8:00-10:00, 10:00-12:00.

Data Elements and Values Defined

Some of these variables pertain to data on both officers killed and officer assaults; a few variables only relate to data on officers killed. Many of these variables only apply to data on officers assaulted.

<u>Variable Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
ori	7 digit FBI code used to identify law enforcement agencies (LEA)
year	Four digit year
pop	Population of reporting LEA
sworn	Sworn officers of reporting LEA
narrests	Number arrests of reporting LEA
kills	Total officer deaths
killsfel	Officer deaths: felonious
killsacc	Officer deaths: accidental
ass	Total Assaults
assinj	Assaults resulting in injury

assnoinj	Assaults not resulting in injury
AIF	Assaults resulting in injury and involving firearms
AIK	Assaults resulting in injury and involving knives
AIH	Assaults resulting in injury and involving use of hands, feet, and so on
AIO	Assaults resulting in injury not falling into the above categories
ANIF	Assaults not resulting in injury and involving firearms
ANIK	Assaults not resulting in injury and involving knives
ANIH	Assaults not resulting in injury and involving use of hands, feet, and so on
ANIO	Assaults not resulting in injury not falling into the above categories
DI	Assaults where the officer was responding to a disturbance call
BU	Assaults where the officer was attempting a burglary arrest
RO	Assaults where the officer was attempting a robbery arrest
AT	Assaults where the officer was attempting any type of arrest
CI	Assaults where the officer was responding to a civil disorder
CU	Assaults where the officer was handling, transporting, or in custody of a prisoner
SU	Assaults where the officer was investigating a suspicious person
AM	Assaults where the officer was ambushed
ME	Assaults where the officer was handling a person with a mental illness
TR	Assaults where the officer was executing a traffic pursuit or stop
AO	Assaults for other reasons
TOT	Assaults: Total
A2	Assaults occurring from 12am-2am
A4	Assaults occurring from 2-4am
A6	Assaults occurring from 4-6am
A8	Assaults occurring from 6-8am
A10	Assaults occurring from 8-10am
A12	Assaults occurring from 10am-12pm
A14	Assaults occurring from 12-2pm
A16	Assaults occurring from 2-4pm
A18	Assaults occurring from 4-6pm
A20	Assaults occurring from 6-8pm
A22	Assaults occurring from 8-10pm
A24	Assaults occurring from 10pm-12am